

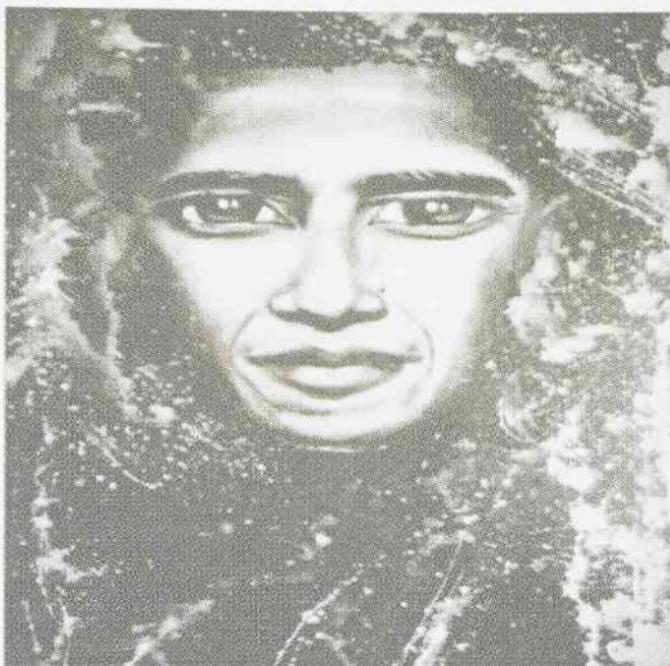
The President is back...

by Shamiere Tuss

President Obama was re-elected in the White House with an electoral vote of 303:206. Long hours of traveling, and thousands spent on campaigning have paid off for the first African American President in US history as he accepts his second term.

What does having Obama in the white house for 4 more year's mean for college students? President Barack Obama is a big supporter of education and believes that it is the stepping-stone to rebuilding the economy. Besides increasing the Pell grant, President Obama has initiated several policies to help take financial stress off of college students: the student loan repayment system, the pay by income system, and the loan forgiveness plan.

Established to help students manage debt



by limiting payments to a certain percentage and time, the student loan repayment has recently taken effect according to Huffington Post. In 2010 Obama asked Congress to change the program by lowering the repayment percentage to 10 instead of 15 percent, a tremendous difference for the struggling post-graduate.

Obama's pay by income system was created for students who have loans that are substantially larger than their income. This plan helps to lower the amount paid each month on loans, but the student must prove financial hardship nearing the time of payment.

Last but not least is the loan forgiveness plan, a policy that was created to assure students of exemption on loans in special circumstances. The policy is for students who have made consistent payments on their loans and will run for a minimum of 20 years according to Simpletuition.com but as of right now the policy only applies to Federal loans. With these policies in effect students should be optimistic about accepting loans to pay for school.

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Affirm or Apprehend?

I realize that opponents of Affirmative Action are saying that "Barack Obama's ascendancy to the presidency shows bluntly and abundantly that Martin Luther King's dream has been realized". Not only can little white and black boys both eat lunch together, they can now run the government together. Therefore, it is about time for Obama to say "ending Affirmative Action is the change we can all believe in". However, these people are relying on us to have either forgotten MLK's dream, or to be ignorant of it altogether. I challenge them to show any evidence whatsoever that MLK's dream was predicated on having a "Black" president. If white and black boys can eat lunch together and run the country together, and if indeed a black man can become president it is only because of Affirmative Action! Ask yourself this question; Could a little black boy grow up to be a Congressman, Senator, Supreme Court justice, President, Government, or Mayor before Affirmative Action? Of Course not!

MLK's dream was a vision of a world of "Enlightenment" in which all people had the revelation that all people are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. When a culture or a civilization evolves to a level like that of King's dream it does not abolish or put an end to the stepping stones that got them there. The old and antiquated statues simply gather dust until their need to be cited as precedent for rulings or laws have yet to be decided. This is my response to those who masquerade behind the argument that things have gotten so good that

Affirmative Action is no longer needed, "When no longer needed there will be no need to abolish or put an end to Affirmative Action."

Another vital reason not to end Affirmative Action is because racism and discrimination are still very much alive and at work in this country. The very elements that Affirmative Action was put in place to quell have only been suppressed and subdued, but not defended, or eradicated. Therefore the need for Affirmative Action is still very prevalent and viable. Affirmative Action has only been in place for about 50 years and yet the contributions of minorities and women have been astronomical during this short period. Although some might claim that now seems like a good time to end Affirmative Action; can you imagine where we [blacks] would have been today without all of the innovations and improvements and greatness of all of those people? People who would have been locked out of every conceivable area of human endeavor had it not been for Affirmative Action, making it possible for them to get a foot in the door. In this present highly technological world do you think that we can actually afford to go back to restricting such gifted individuals from pursuing their fields of choice because of gender, or the color of their skin? Not if America is going to stay competitive in today's world.

~Richard L. Trower